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CHICAGO TRIBUNE
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Nazi camp guard suspect claims Soviets framed him

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CLEVELAND [UPI]—Government evidence against a man accused of being a Nazi death camp guard is based on "totally fraudulent evidence" and there are witnesses to prove it, his lawyer says.

John Demjanjuk, 63, of suburban Seven Hills, lost his citizenship in 1981 after a federal judge ruled that Demjanjuk was a gas chamber operator known as "Ivan the Terrible" at the Treblinka death camp in Poland, where 900,000 Jews died during the Holocaust.

His deportation case has been before Judge Adolph Angelilli since March, when the hearing was recessed after government prosecutors presented arguments based on evidence from the 1981 denaturalization trial.

Defense witnesses to begin testifying Monday.

DEMJEANJUK, WHO was born in the Ukraine and came to the United States in 1951, also faces extradition to Israel to stand trial on war crimes. Extradition proceedings are scheduled to resume this month in U.S. District Court.

An important piece of evidence

presented during the denaturalization trial was Demjanjuk's purported SS identity card issued at an SS training camp.

The photograph on the card was used by Holocaust survivors to identify Demjanjuk as "Ivan the Terrible."

"German administrative officers at the training camp will testify that the card is totally fraudulent," said Mark O'Connor, Demjanjuk's lawyer. "There never was any such card."

O'Connor contends the card was forged by the Soviet KGB and then supplied to the Justice Department.

THE CARD WAS fabricated by the Soviet secret police to have Demjanjuk deported so he could be killed by the KGB for fighting with anti-Soviet forces during World War II, O'Connor said.

Government attorney Bruce Einhorn said an expert witness vouched for the authenticity of the card at the denaturalization trial, and the card was accepted as evidence.

The government has requested that Demjanjuk be deported to the Soviet Union.